GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:314
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Protection of Catchment Areas
Chandrakasi Shri M.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out any study to find out the present condition of the catchment areas of important river systems in the country and if so, the details and outcome thereof;
(b) whether the Government has any scheme under implementation or being planned for implementation for the protection of catchment areas of important river systems in the country by setting up reserve forests in the catchment areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing the National River Conservation Programme (NRCP). No specific study has been conducted under NRCP to find out the present condition of the catchment areas of important river systems in the country. However, under the Scheme of NRCP, this Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers.

As per the information received from the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, there is no scheme/ programme exclusively meant for protection of catchment areas of rivers. However, the Department of Land Resources has been implementing an area development programme namely 'Integrated Watershed Management Programme' (IWMP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme w.e.f. 26.02.2009 for development of rainfed / degraded areas. The major activities taken up under the 'Integrated Watershed Management Programme' (IWMP), inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons. In 2015-16, the IWMP was amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)". As on 31.10.2015, a total of 8,214 projects have been sanctioned covering an area of 39.07 million ha and an amount of Rs.12,451.86 crore released as central assistance to various States including drought hit rural areas. These projects are at various stages of implementation.

The measures for protection of catchments of rivers are to be carried out by the concerned State Governments including constitution of reserve forests, which is done as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 or the respective State Forest Act as applicable in the State.

***